

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00
SP-02 L-03 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15
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APPROVED BY HA/HR:CSALMON
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D:JSPEIGEL
L:LINDABAUMANN (INFO)

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R 081817Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228068

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: UY, EFIN, SHUM

SUBJECT: U. S. OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED MULTILATERAL BANK
LOAN TO URUGUAY

REFERENCE: STATE 015725

1. THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY HAS INSTRUCTED THE U. S. DIRECTOR TO THE WORLD BANK, IFC TO ABSTAIN ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS TO A \$950,000 LIQUID PETROLEUM GAS PROJECT. THE LOAN GOES TO THE IFC BOARD ON SEPTEMBER 12.
2. AS PART OF THE CONSULTATION DESCRIBED IN REFTEL, ACTION EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF OUR DECISION FOR THEIR REFERENCE WHEN CONSIDERING THEIR POSITION ON THIS PROJECT.
3. DECISION WAS BASED ON CONTINUING SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN URUGUAY MARKED BY AN AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS EFFECTIVELY DISMANTLED THE TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, THE SUPPRESSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS CRITICISM AND OF TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY, THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF OVER 2,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE CONTINUED OCCURRENCE, ALTHOUGH AT A DECREASING RATE, OF ARBITRARY ARREST, TORTURE AND DISAPPEARANCES. THE U. S.

HAVE VOTED NO ON NON BASIC HUMAN NEEDS LOANS TO URUGUAY IN THE PAST AND SUPPORTED ONE LOAN WHICH WAS BELIEVED TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF URUGUAYAN COOPERATION WITH VISITS OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. THE DECISION TO ABSTAIN RATHER THAN VOTE NO ON THIS LOAN WAS INFLUENCED BY FURTHER MOVEMENTS ON THE PART OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT
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IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OUR AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY'S BELIEF THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE AN ABSTENTION RATHER THAN A NO VOTE COULD BE USED AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING THE GOV TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. CHRISTOPHER

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